

6th July 1962]

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE LOCK-OUT BY THE KOTHANDARAM WEAVING MILLS, MADURAI.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri V. S. S. Mani will now call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Finance to a matter of urgent, public importance, viz., lock-out by Kothandaram Weaving Mills, Madurai, without giving previous notice to the labourers and consequential unemployment.

திரு. வா. சொ. சு. மணி : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, மதுரையிலுள்ள கோதண்டராம் நெசவு ஆலையானது தொழிலாளருக்கு முன்னறிவிப்பு இல்லாமல் மூடப்பட்டு, அதனால் 400 அல்லது 500 தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலையில்லாமல் அவதிப்பட்டார்கள் என்ற முக்கியமான விஷயத்தைச் சென்ற மாதம்

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should only read the notice calling the attention of the Hon. Minister and should not make a speech.

திரு. வா. சொ. சு. மணி : மதுரையிலுள்ள கோதண்டராம் நெசவு ஆலை, தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு முன்னறிவிப்புக் கொடுக்காமல் மூடப்பட்டதும், அதனால் ஏற்பட்ட வேலையின்மையும் பற்றிய அவசரப் பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தை கனம் நிதி அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன். இந்த நோட்டீஸை சென்ற மாதமே கொடுத்தேன். ஆனால் இன்றைக்குத்தான் இந்த நோட்டீஸ் வந்திருக்கிறது. ஒரு வகையாக அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் அதைச் சரி செய்து விட்டதால், இப்போது ஆலை திறக்கப்பட்டு விட்டது என்று அறிகிறேன். மேலும் இந்த விதமான

MR. SPEAKER : So, the hon. Member does not press it?

SRI V. S. S. MANI : Sir, I want a statement from the Hon. Minister.

* **THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sri Kothandaram Weaving Mills, Madurai, is a power-loom factory with 82 looms, employing 125 workers. Until recently the power-loom factories were liable to pay Central Excise Duty at certain concessional rates, while the looms in composite textile mills are charged at the full standard rates. In the Finance Bill, 1962, the Union Government proposed to enhance the rates of Excise Duty on power-loom generally, with the result that power-loom factories with 50 looms or more will be treated on the same footing as composite mills. As a result of this move, many of the powerloom factories in this State reduced their active loomage to less than 50.

The case of Sri Kothandaram Weaving Mills, Madurai, comes under this category. The 125 workers of this mill were laid-off with effect from 27th April 1962 on the ground that the unit could

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not afford to pay the enhanced rates of Excise Duty contemplated in the Finance Bill, 1962. The Commissioner of Labour discussed this issue with the management and the workers of the mill on 1st and 2nd May 1962. The management of Sri Kothandaram Weaving Mills has resumed the working of 48 looms and has been running them on the 3 shifts with effect from 3rd May 1962. The remaining 34 looms are idle. By running the mill on 3 shifts the mill has been able to provide employment to all the 125 workers and no further lay-off or other adverse change in the employment situation is anticipated.

In this connection, I would like to mention that, in response to the large number of representations received from power-loom factories in this State, this Government took up the question of levy of Excise Duty with the Government of India and urged them to retain the compounded rates of Excise Duty in respect of units having up to 100 power-loom. I am happy to be able to say that the Government of India have announced some concessions to power-loom factories viz., units having 50 to 300 looms need pay Excise Duty only at $\frac{1}{2}$ the standard rates for the period upto 28th February 1963 and at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the standard rates for the year ending February 1964.

III.—AMENDMENT TO THE MADRAS LIQUOR (LICENCE AND PERMIT) RULES, 1960 (LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON 30TH JUNE 1962)

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, I move the following amendment:—

“That the following amendment be made to the notification issued in G.O. Ms. No. 4391, Home, dated 15th December 1961 substituting a proviso for the note under rule 10 (B) III (3) of the Madras Liquor (Licence and Permit) Rules, 1960 published with Home Department Notification S.R.O. No. A 291 of 1960, dated the 18th August 1960 at pages 3 to 121 of the Supplement to Part V of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 14th September 1960, as subsequently amended and circulated to the members on 1st June 1962:—

AMENDMENT.

Add at the end of the proviso to rule 10 (B) III (3) of the Madras Liquor (Licence and Permit) Rules, 1960, as subsequently amended, contained in the notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 4391, Home, dated 15th December 1961, the following:—

“Subject to the condition that a return showing the quantities of liquor stocked and consumed during each month be furnished to the Commissioner of Police, Madras City, not later than the 15th of the subsequent month.”

திரு. மீ. கல்யாணசுந்தரம்: கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்தச் சபையின் மேஜையின் மீது சர்க்கார் ‘ஹோம்’ இலாகாவின் அரசாங்க உத்திரவு 4391, டிசம்பர் மாதம் 15-ஆம் தேதி